

Appl. No. 10/623,240
Amdt. dated August 18, 2005
Reply to Office Action of 05/19/2005

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 24, with the following amended paragraph:

When a call is initiated, call set-up procedures commence. An IAM message, for instance, is generated by a switch element that is coupled to a calling station. The IAM message is here generated on a line 24 ~~25~~. The IAM message includes values of the dialing digits, that is, the telephone number, of a called station to which the call connection is requested.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 10, line 1, with the following amended paragraph:

The signal transfer point 26 includes apparatus 32 of an embodiment of the present invention. The apparatus 32 ~~26~~ operates to detect and to facilitate amelioration of the call congestion, in a controlled manner, caused by the mass call event. The apparatus 32 is also functionally represented, formed of functional entities. The functional entities forming the apparatus are implementable in any desired manner, such as by algorithms executable by processing circuitry. And, while the entities forming the signaling transfer point are represented to be embodied at the signal transfer point 26, the functions performed by the entities of the apparatus can also be distributed amongst more than one signaling transfer point, or embodied at other elements, other than a signaling transfer point.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 11, line 15, with the following amended paragraph:

One of the application processors 44 is designated as a processor that operates pursuant to an embodiment of the present invention, that is, to include the apparatus 32 ~~42~~ as a portion thereof or otherwise to perform the functions carried out by the apparatus. The application processor that is selected, or otherwise nominated, to perform the detection and notification operations is provided with indications of IAM messages provided thereto. And, because the nominated application processor receives a fractional

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part of the IAM messages provided to the signal transfer point, detections made by the nominated application processor are representative, in a fractional manner, of the total number of IAM messages delivered to the signal transfer point.